

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 31, 34-37, and 43-49 have been amended to replace the term “output control parameters” with “print control parameters.” Amendments to claims 31, 34-37, and 43-49 are supported at least at page 16 of the present specification. Claims 31-47 remain pending in the application.

Claims 31, 32, 34, 39, 40, 41 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nagashima (U.S. 4,719,516). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Nagashima discloses a non-volatile storage 3. However, the non-volatile storage does not store the print control parameters and the image data. The image data disclosed by Nagashima is supplied from a reader 21, not from the non-volatile storage 3. Therefore, Nagashima fails to disclose “retrieving print control parameters and image data stored in a removable storage medium,” as required by claims 31 and 39, and the claims that depend from them.

Nagashima also discloses an “integral program” (column 2, line 64 to column 3, line 1) that is different from the print control parameters of claims 31 and 39. The integral program disclosed by Nagashima is information that is dependent on a particular type and manufacture of a printer. In contrast, the print control parameters of claims 31 and 39 can be handled as general information that is independent from the type and manufacturer of a printer. As a result, it is not proper to compare the integral program disclosed by Nagashima with the print control parameters of claims 31 and 39.

Nagashima further discloses at column 3, lines 18-22 and column 4, lines 29-34 that the data stored in the non-volatile storage 3 can be erased. However, as discussed above, Nagashima fails to disclose the storing of print control parameters and image data in the non-volatile storage 3. Therefore, Nagashima also fails to disclose “erasing printing image data and print control parameters used in printing, which are stored in a removable storage medium, after printing the image data,” as required by claims 34, 41 and 43.

Nagashima also fails to disclose certain advantages provided by the configuration of claims 34, 41 and 43. By “erasing the printing image data and print control parameters . . . stored in a removable storage medium . . . after printing,” as required by claims 34, 41 and 43, the storage capacity of the removable storage medium is effectively utilized and initiation of an unnecessary printing that may occur when inserting the removable storage medium into a printer

can be prevented. Nagashima discloses no such advantage. Therefore, Nagashima fails to disclose both the limitations and their related advantages of claims 34, 41 and 43.

Claims 33 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagashima in view of Sakata et al. (U.S. 5,105,284). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. As noted above, Nagashima fails to disclose every limitation of claims 31 and 39. Sakata fails to remedy the deficiencies of Nagashima as it relates to claims 31 and 39. Therefore, claims 33 and 42 are allowable for at least the reason they are dependent upon an allowable base claim. Applicant does not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Claims 35-38 and 44-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagashima in view of Itoh (U.S. 5,923,437). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As discussed above, Nagashima discloses image data being supplied by a reader 21, not the non-volatile storage 3. The image data and any print control related parameters disclosed by Nagashima are stored or provided by features other than the non-volatile storage 3. Therefore, Nagashima fails to disclose or suggest “image data to be printed based on print control parameters stored in a removable storage medium, is also stored in the removable storage medium,” as required by claims 35, 37, 44 and 46.

Furthermore, the “integral program” disclosed by Nagashima is based on information dependent on a specific type and manufacture of a printer, whereas the print control parameters required by 35, 37, 44 and 46 can be handled as general information independent from the specific type and manufacture of a printer. Therefore, it is not proper to compare the integral program disclosed by Nagashima with the print control parameters required by claims 35, 37, 44 and 46.

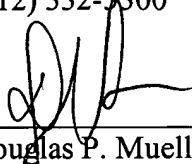
Itoh fails to remedy the deficiencies of Nagashima as it relates to claims 35, 37, 44 and 46. Further to the above, Itoh also fails to disclose an image processing apparatus wherein “a means for storing information of functions of the printing means and sorter (finisher) into the removable storage medium,” as required by claims 36, 38, 45 and 47. Therefore, Applicant submits that Nagashima and Itoh fail to disclose or suggest every limitation of claims 35, 37, 44 and 46, and the claims that depend from them. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, Applicant requests reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted

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Date: ²⁴
October 23, 2003



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